

## **DEFINITIONS (NOV 2004) (BL-001)**

(a) "Solicitation" means an invitation for bids (IFB) when using sealed bidding and a request for proposal (RFP) when an acquisition is negotiated.

(b) "Offer" means "bid" when sealed bidding is used and "proposal" when an acquisition is negotiated.

*(End of provision)*

## **BRAND NAME OR EQUAL (NOV 2004) (BL-002)**

(a) If an item in this solicitation is identified as "brand name or equal," the purchase description reflects the characteristics and level of quality that will satisfy the NAFI's needs. The salient physical, functional, or performance characteristics that "equal" products must meet are specified in the solicitation.

(b) To be considered for award, offers of "equal" products, including "equal" products of the brand name manufacturer, must—

(1) Meet the salient physical, functional, or performance characteristic specified in this solicitation;

(2) Clearly identify the item by—

(i) Brand name, if any; and

(ii) Make or model number;

(3) Include descriptive literature such as illustrations, drawings, or a clear reference to previously furnished descriptive data or information available to the Contracting Officer; and

(4) Clearly describe any modifications the offeror plans to make in a product to make it conform to the solicitation requirements. Mark any descriptive material to clearly show the modifications.

(c) The Contracting Officer will evaluate "equal" products on the basis of information furnished by the offeror or identified in the offer and reasonably available to the Contracting Officer. The Contracting Officer is not responsible for locating or obtaining any information not identified in the offer.

(d) Unless the offeror clearly indicates in its offer that the product being offered is an "equal" product, the offeror shall provide the brand name product referenced in the solicitation.

*(End of provision)*

## **AMENDMENTS TO INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (NOV 2004) (BL-003)**

(a) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions that are not modified remain unchanged.

(b) Bidders shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation (1) by signing and returning the amendment, (2) by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the form for submitting a bid, (3) by letter or telegram, or (4) by facsimile, if facsimile bids are authorized in the solicitation. The NAFI must receive the acknowledgement by the time and at the place specified for receipt of bids.

*(End of provision)*

#### **AMENDMENTS TO SOLICITATIONS (NOV 2004) (BL-004)**

(a) If this solicitation is amended, then all terms and conditions that are not modified remain unchanged.

(b) Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation (1) by signing and returning the amendment, (2) by identifying the amendment number and date in the space provided for this purpose on the form for submitting an offer bid, (3) by letter or telegram, or (4) by facsimile, if facsimile offers are authorized in the solicitation. The NAFI must receive the acknowledgement by the time and at the place specified for receipt of offers.

*(End of provision)*

#### **RESERVED (NOV 2004) (BL-005)**

#### **RESERVED (NOV 2004) (BL-006)**

#### **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS (NOV 2004) (BL-007)**

(a) Offers and modifications shall be submitted in sealed envelopes or packages (unless submitted by electronic means)—

(1) Addressed to the office specified in the solicitation; and

(2) Showing the time and date specified for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offeror.

(b) Telegraphic offers will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation; however, offers may be modified by written or telegraphic notice.

(c) Facsimile offers, modifications or withdrawals will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation.

(d) Offers submitted by electronic commerce shall be considered only if the electronic commerce method was specifically stipulated or permitted by the solicitation.

(e) Item samples, if required, must be submitted within the time specified for receipt of offers. Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation these samples shall be (1) submitted at no expense to the NAFI, and (2) returned at the sender's request and expense, unless they are destroyed during preaward testing.

*(End of provision)*

#### **EXPLANATION TO PROSPECTIVE OFFERORS (NOV 2004) (BL-008)**

Any prospective offeror desiring an explanation or interpretation of the solicitation, drawings, specifications, etc., must request it in writing soon enough to allow a reply to reach all prospective offerors before the submission of their offers. Oral explanations or instructions given before the award of the contract will not be binding. Any information given to a prospective offeror concerning a solicitation will be furnished promptly to all other prospective offerors as an amendment of the solicitation, if that information is necessary in submitting offers or if the lack of it would be prejudicial to any other prospective offerors.

*(End of provision)*

#### **LATE SUBMISSIONS, MODIFICATIONS, AND WITHDRAWALS OF BIDS (NOV 2004) (BL-009)**

(a) Bidders are responsible for submitting bids, and any modifications or withdrawals, so as to reach the office designated in the invitation for bids (IFB) by the time specified in the IFB. If no time is specified in the IFB, the time for receipt is 4:30 p.m., local time, for the designated office on the date that bids are due.

(b)(1) Any bid, modification, or withdrawal received at the office designated in the IFB after the exact time specified for receipt of bids is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made; and—

(i) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the IFB, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government/NAFI infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of bids; or

(ii) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the installation designated for receipt of bids and was under the Government/NAFI control prior to the time set for receipt of bids.

(2) However, a late modification of an otherwise successful bid that makes its terms more favorable to the NAFI, will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

(c) Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the bid wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of NAFI or Government personnel.

(d) If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal processes so that bids cannot be received at the office designated for receipt of bids by the exact time specified in the IFB and urgent NAFI requirements preclude amendment of the IFB, the time specified for receipt of bids will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal processes resume.

(e) Bids may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before the exact time set for receipt of bids. If the IFB authorizes facsimile bids, bids may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the exact time set for receipt of bids. A bid may be withdrawn in person by a bidder or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for receipt of bids, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the bid.

*(End of provision)*

**FAILURE TO SUBMIT OFFER (NOV 2004) (BL-010)**

Recipients of this solicitation not responding with an offer should not return this solicitation, unless it specifies otherwise. Instead, they should advise the issuing office by letter, postcard, or established electronic commerce methods, whether they want to receive future solicitations for similar requirements. If a recipient does not submit an offer and does not notify the issuing office that future solicitations are desired, the recipient's name may be removed from the applicable mailing list.

*(End of provision)*

**RESERVED (NOV 2004) (BL-011)****RESERVED (NOV 2004) (BL-012)****PREPARATION OF OFFERS (NOV 2004) (BL-013)**

(a) Offerors are expected to examine the drawings, specifications, Schedule, and all instructions. Failure to do so will be at the offeror's risk.

(b) Each offeror shall furnish the information required by the solicitation. The offeror shall sign the offer and print or type its name on the Schedule and each continuation sheet on which it makes an entry. Erasures or other changes must be initialed by the person signing the offer. Offers signed by the agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

(c) For each item offered, offerors shall (1) show the unit price/cost, including, unless otherwise specified, packaging, packing and preservation and (2) enter the extended price/cost for the quantity of each item offered in the "Amount" column of the Schedule. In case of discrepancy between a unit price/cost and an extended price/cost, the unit price/cost will be presumed to be correct, subject, however, to correction to the same extent and in the same manner as any other mistake.

(d) Offers for supplies or services other than those specified will not be considered unless authorized by the solicitation.

(e) Offerors must state a definite time for delivery of supplies or for performances of services, unless otherwise specified the solicitation.

(f) Time, if stated as a number of days, will include Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays.

*(End of provision)*

**PERIOD FOR ACCEPTANCE OF BIDS (NOV 2004) (BL-014)**

In compliance with the solicitation, the bidder agrees, if this bid is accepted within \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days (60 calendar days unless a different period is inserted by the bidder) from the date

specified in the solicitation for receipt of bids, to furnish any or all items upon which prices are bid at the price set opposite each item, delivered at the designated point(s), within the time specified in the Schedule.

*(End of provision)*

In compliance with the solicitation, the bidder agrees, if this bid is accepted within \_\_\_\_\_ calendar days (60 calendar days unless a different period is inserted by the bidder) from the date specified in the solicitation for receipt of bids, to furnish any or all items upon which prices are bid at the price set opposite each item, delivered at the designated point(s), within the time specified in the Schedule.

*(End of provision)*

#### **BID SAMPLES (NOV 2004) (BL-015)**

(a) "Bid samples" are item sample submissions required of bidders to show those characteristics of the offered products that cannot adequately be described by specifications or purchase descriptions (e.g., balance, facility of use, or pattern).

(b) Bid samples, required elsewhere in this solicitation, must be furnished as part of the bid and must be received by the time specified for receipt of bids. Failure to furnish samples on time will require rejection of the bid, except that a late sample sent by mail may be considered under the Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals of Bids provision of this solicitation.

(c) Bid samples will be tested or evaluated to determine compliance with all the characteristics listed for examination in this solicitation. Failure of these samples to conform to the required characteristics will require rejection of the bid. Products delivered under any resulting contract must conform to—

(1) The approved sample for the characteristics listed for test or evaluation; and

(2) The specifications for all other characteristics.

(d) Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, bid samples shall be—

(1) Submitted at no expense to the NAFI; and

(2) Returned at the bidder's request and expense, unless they are destroyed during preaward testing.

*(End of provision)*

#### **Alternate I**

(e) At the discretion of the Contracting Officer, the requirement for furnishing bid samples may be waived for a bidder if—

(1) The bid states that the offered product is the same as a product offered by the bidder to the \_\_\_\_\_ [as appropriate, the Contracting Officer shall designate the contracting office or an alternate activity or office]; and

(2) The Contracting Officer determines that the previously offered product was accepted or tested and found to comply with specification and other requirements for technical acceptability conforming in every material respect with those in this solicitation.

#### **Alternate II**

(e) At the discretion of the Contracting Officer, the requirements for furnishing bid samples may be waived for a bidder if—

(1) The bid states that the offered product is the same as a product offered by the bidder to the \_\_\_\_\_ *[as appropriate, the Contracting Officer shall designate the contracting office or an alternate activity or office]* on a previous acquisition;

(2) The Contracting Officer determines that the previously offered product was accepted or tested and found to comply with specification and other requirements for technical acceptability conforming in every material respect with those of this solicitation; and

(3) The product offered under this solicitation will be produced under a resulting contract at the same plant in which the previously acquired or tested product was produced.

*(End of provision)*

#### **DESCRIPTIVE LITERATURE (NOV 2004) (BL-016)**

(a) "Descriptive literature" means information (e.g., cuts, illustrations, drawings, and brochures) that is submitted as part of a bid. Descriptive literature is required to establish, for the purpose of evaluation and award, details of the product offered that are specified elsewhere in the solicitation and pertain to significant elements such as (1) design; (2) materials; (3) components; (4) performance characteristics; and (5) methods of manufacture, assembly, construction, or operation. The term includes only information required to determine the technical acceptability of the offered product. It does not include other information such as that used in determining the responsibility of a prospective Contractor or for operating or maintaining equipment.

(b) Descriptive literature, required elsewhere in this solicitation, must be (1) identified to show the item(s) of the offer to which it applies and (2) received by the time specified in this solicitation for receipt of bids. Failure to submit descriptive literature on time will require rejection of the bid, except that late descriptive literature sent by mail may be considered under the Late Submissions, Modifications, and Withdrawals of Bids provision of this solicitation.

(c) The failure of descriptive literature to show that the product offered conforms to the requirements of this solicitation will require rejection of the bid.

*(End of provision)*

#### **Alternate I**

(d) The Contracting Officer may waive the requirement for furnishing descriptive literature if the bidder has supplied a product the same as that required by this solicitation under a prior contract. A bidder that requests a waiver of this requirement shall provide the following information:

Prior contract number \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of prior contract \_\_\_\_\_  
Contract line item number of product supplied \_\_\_\_\_

Name and address of NAFI activity to which delivery was made \_\_\_\_\_  
Date of final delivery of product supplied \_\_\_\_\_

(e) Bidders must submit bids on the basis of required descriptive literature or on the basis of a previously supplied product under paragraph (d) above. A bidder submitting a bid on one of these two bases may not elect to have its bid considered on the alternative basis after the time specified in the invitation for bids. A bidder's request for a waiver under paragraph (d) above will be disregarded if that bidder has submitted the descriptive literature required under this solicitation.

*(End of provision)*

**LATE SUBMISSIONS, MODIFICATIONS, REVISIONS, AND WITHDRAWALS OF TECHNICAL PROPOSALS UNDER TWO-STEP SEALED BIDDING (NOV 2004) (BL-017)**

(a) Bidders are responsible for submitting technical proposals, and any modifications or revisions, so as to reach the office designated in the request for technical proposals by the time specified in the invitation for bids (IFB). If no time is specified in the IFB, the time for receipt is 4:30 p.m., local time, for the designated office on the date that bids or revisions are due.

(b)(1) Any technical proposal under step one of two-step sealed bidding, modification, revision, or withdrawal of such proposal received at the office designated in the request for technical proposals after the exact time specified for receipt will not be considered unless the Contracting Officer determines that accepting the late technical proposal would not unduly delay the acquisition; and—

(i) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the request for technical proposals, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government/NAFI infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or

(ii) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the installation designated for receipt of offers and was under the Government/NAFI control prior to the time set for receipt; or

(iii) It is the only proposal received.

(2) However, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the NAFI will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

(c) Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the technical proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government/NAFI personnel.

(d) If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal processes so that technical proposals cannot be received at the office designated for receipt of technical proposals by the exact time specified in the request for technical proposals, and urgent NAFI requirements preclude amendment of the request for technical proposals, the time specified for receipt of technical proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the request for technical proposals on the first work day on which normal processes resume.

(e) Technical proposals may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before the exact time set for receipt of technical proposals. If the request for technical proposals authorizes facsimile technical proposals, they may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before the exact time set for receipt of proposals, subject to the conditions specified in the provision,

Facsimile Bids. A technical proposal may be withdrawn in person by a bidder or its authorized representative if, before the exact time set for receipt of technical proposals, the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the technical proposal.

*(End of provision)*

## **STEP TWO OF TWO-STEP SEALED BIDDING (NOV 2004) (BL-018)**

(a) This invitation for bids is issued to initiate step two of two-step sealed bidding.

(b) The only bids that the Contracting Officer may consider for award of a contract are those received from bidders that have submitted acceptable technical proposals in step one of this acquisition under \_\_\_\_\_ *[Contracting Officer insert identification of the step-one request for technical proposals]*.

(c) Any bidder that has submitted multiple technical proposals in step one of this acquisition may submit a separate bid on each technical proposal that was determined to be acceptable to the NAFI.

*(End of provision)*

## **FACSIMILE BIDS (NOV 2004) (BL-019)**

(a) *Definition.* "Facsimile bid," as used in this solicitation, means a bid, modification of a bid, or withdrawal of a bid that is transmitted to and received by the NAFI via electronic equipment that communicates and reproduces both printed and handwritten material.

(b) Bidders may submit facsimile bids as responses to this solicitation. These responses must arrive at the place and by the time, specified in the solicitation.

(c) Facsimile bids that fail to furnish required representations or information or that reject any of the terms, conditions, and provisions of the solicitation may be excluded from consideration.

(d) Facsimile bids must contain the required signatures.

(e) The NAFI reserves the right to make award solely on the facsimile bid. However, if requested to do so by the Contracting Officer, the apparently successful bidder agrees to promptly submit the complete original signed bid. The failure to submit a hard copy by the successful bidder however cannot be the sole basis for rejecting the facsimile bid. (See P.L. 106-229)

(f) Telephone number of receiving facsimile equipment is: \_\_\_\_\_ *[insert telephone number]*.

(g) If the bidder chooses to transmit a facsimile bid, the NAFI will not be responsible for any failure attributable to the transmission or receipt of the facsimile bid including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Receipt of garbled or incomplete bid.
- (2) Availability or condition of the receiving facsimile equipment.
- (3) Incompatibility between the sending and receiving equipment.
- (4) Delay in transmission or receipt of bid.
- (5) Failure of the bidder to properly identify the bid.



- (6) Illegibility of bid.
- (7) Security of bid data.

*(End of provision)*

#### **SUBMISSION OF OFFERS IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE (NOV 2004) (BL-020)**

Offers submitted in response to this solicitation shall be in the English language. Offers received in other than English shall be rejected.

*(End of provision)*

#### **INSTRUCTIONS TO OFFERORS—COMPETITIVE (NOV 2004) (BL-021)**

(a) *Definitions.* As used in this provision—

"Discussions" are negotiations that occur after establishment of the competitive range that may, at the Contracting Officer's discretion, result in the offeror being allowed to revise its proposal.

"In writing" or "written" means any worded or numbered expression which can be read, reproduced, and later communicated, and includes electronically transmitted and stored information.

"Proposal modification" is a change made to a proposal before the solicitation's closing date and time, or made in response to an amendment, or made to correct a mistake at any time before award.

"Proposal revision" is a change to a proposal made after the solicitation closing date, at the request of or as allowed by a Contracting Officer as the result of negotiations.

"Time," if stated as a number of days, is calculated using calendar days, unless otherwise specified, and will include Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays. However, if the last day falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or legal holiday, then the period shall include the next working day.

(b) *Amendments to solicitations.* If this solicitation is amended, all terms and conditions that are not amended remain unchanged. Offerors shall acknowledge receipt of any amendment to this solicitation by the date and time specified in the amendment(s).

(c) *Submission, modification, revision, and withdrawal of proposals.*

(1) Unless other methods (e.g., electronic commerce or facsimile) are permitted in the solicitation, proposals and modifications to proposals shall be submitted in paper media in sealed envelopes or packages (i) addressed to the office specified in the solicitation, and (ii) showing the time and date specified for receipt, the solicitation number, and the name and address of the offeror. Offerors using commercial carriers should ensure that the proposal is marked on the outermost wrapper with the information in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) and (b)(1)(ii) of this provision.

(2) The first page of the proposal must show—

- (i) The solicitation number;

(ii) The name, address, and telephone and facsimile numbers of the offeror (and electronic address if available);

(iii) A statement specifying the extent of agreement with all terms, conditions, and provisions included in the solicitation and agreement to furnish any or all items upon which prices are offered at the price set opposite each item;

(iv) Names, titles, and telephone and facsimile numbers (and electronic addresses if available) of persons authorized to negotiate on the offeror's behalf with the NAFI in connection with this solicitation; and

(v) Name, title, and signature of person authorized to sign the proposal. Proposals signed by an agent shall be accompanied by evidence of that agent's authority, unless that evidence has been previously furnished to the issuing office.

*(3) Submission, modification, revision, and withdrawal of proposals.*

(i) Offerors are responsible for submitting proposals, and any modifications or revisions, so as to reach the office designated in the solicitation by the time specified in the solicitation. If no time is specified in the solicitation, the time for receipt is 4:30 p.m., local time, for the designated office on the date that proposal or revision is due.

(ii)(A) Any proposal, modification, or revision received at the office designated in the solicitation after the exact time specified for receipt of offers is "late" and will not be considered unless it is received before award is made, the Contracting Officer determines that accepting the late offer would not unduly delay the acquisition; and—

(1) If it was transmitted through an electronic commerce method authorized by the solicitation, it was received at the initial point of entry to the Government/NAFI infrastructure not later than 5:00 p.m. one working day prior to the date specified for receipt of proposals; or

(2) There is acceptable evidence to establish that it was received at the installation designated for receipt of offers and was under the Government/NAFI control prior to the time set for receipt of offers; or

(3) It is the only proposal received.

(B) However, a late modification of an otherwise successful proposal that makes its terms more favorable to the NAFI will be considered at any time it is received and may be accepted.

(iii) Acceptable evidence to establish the time of receipt at the installation includes the time/date stamp of that installation on the proposal wrapper, other documentary evidence of receipt maintained by the installation, or oral testimony or statements of Government/NAFI personnel.

(iv) If an emergency or unanticipated event interrupts normal processes so that proposals cannot be received at the office designated for receipt of proposals by the exact time specified in the solicitation, and urgent NAFI requirements preclude amendment of the solicitation, the time specified for receipt of proposals will be deemed to be extended to the same time of day specified in the solicitation on the first work day on which normal processes resume.

(v) Proposals may be withdrawn by written notice received at any time before

award. Oral proposals in response to oral solicitations may be withdrawn orally. If the solicitation authorizes facsimile proposals, proposals may be withdrawn via facsimile received at any time before award, subject to the conditions specified in the provision, Facsimile Proposals. Proposals may be withdrawn in person by an offeror or an authorized representative, if the identity of the person requesting withdrawal is established and the person signs a receipt for the proposal before award.

(4) Unless otherwise specified in the solicitation, the offeror may propose to provide any item or combination of items.

(5) Offerors shall submit proposals in response to this solicitation in English, unless otherwise permitted by the solicitation, and in U.S. dollars, unless the provision, Evaluation of Foreign Currency Offers, is included in the solicitation.

(6) Offerors may submit modifications to their proposals at any time before the solicitation closing date and time, and may submit modifications in response to an amendment, or to correct a mistake at any time before award.

(7) Offerors may submit revised proposals only if requested or allowed by the Contracting Officer.

(8) Proposals may be withdrawn at any time before award. Withdrawals are effective upon receipt of notice by the Contracting Officer.

(d) *Offer expiration date.* Proposals in response to this solicitation will be valid for the number of days specified on the solicitation cover sheet (unless a different period is proposed by the offeror).

(e) *Restriction on disclosure and use of data.* Offerors that include in their proposals data that they do not want disclosed to the public for any purpose, or used by the NAFI except for evaluation purposes, shall—

(1) Mark the title page with the following legend: This proposal includes data that shall not be disclosed outside the NAFI and shall not be duplicated, used, or disclosed--in whole or in part--for any purpose other than to evaluate this proposal. If, however, a contract is awarded to this offeror as a result of--or in connection with--the submission of this data, the NAFI shall have the right to duplicate, use, or disclose the data to the extent provided in the resulting contract. This restriction does not limit the NAFI's right to use information contained in this data if it is obtained from another source without restriction. The data subject to this restriction are contained in sheets [*insert numbers or other identification of sheets*]; and

(2) Mark each sheet of data it wishes to restrict with the following legend: Use or disclosure of data contained on this sheet is subject to the restriction on the title page of this proposal.

(f) *Contract award.*

(1) The NAFI intends to award a contract or a contract resulting from this solicitation to the responsible offeror(s) whose proposal(s) represents the best value after evaluation in accordance with the factors and subfactors in the solicitation.

(2) The NAFI may reject any or all proposals if such action is in the NAFI's interest.

(3) The NAFI may waive informalities and minor irregularities in proposals received.

(4) The NAFI intends to evaluate proposals and award a contract without discussions with offerors (except for clarifications). Therefore, the offeror's initial proposal should contain the offeror's best terms from a cost or price and technical standpoint. The NAFI reserves the right to conduct discussions if the Contracting Officer later determines them to be necessary. If the Contracting Officer determines that the number of proposals that would otherwise be in the competitive range exceeds the number at which an efficient competition can be conducted, the Contracting Officer may limit the number of proposals in the competitive range to the greatest number that will permit an efficient competition among the most highly rated proposals.

(5) The NAFI reserves the right to make an award on any item for a quantity less than the quantity offered, at the unit cost or prices offered, unless the offeror specifies otherwise in the proposal.

(6) The NAFI reserves the right to make multiple awards if, after considering the additional administrative costs, it is in the NAFI's best interest to do so.

(7) Exchanges with offerors after receipt of a proposal do not constitute a rejection or counteroffer by the NAFI.

(8) The NAFI may determine that a proposal is unacceptable if the prices proposed are materially unbalanced between line items or subline items. Unbalanced pricing exists when, despite an acceptable total evaluated price, the price of one or more contract line items is significantly overstated or understated as indicated by the application of cost or price analysis techniques. A proposal may be rejected if the Contracting Officer determines that the lack of balance poses an unacceptable risk to the NAFI.

(9) If a cost realism analysis is performed, cost realism may be considered by the source selection authority in evaluating performance or schedule risk.

(10) A written award or acceptance of proposal mailed or otherwise furnished to the successful offeror within the time specified in the proposal shall result in a binding contract without further action by either party.

(11) The NAFI may disclose the following information in postaward debriefings to other offerors:

(i) The overall evaluated cost or price and technical rating of the successful offeror;

(ii) The overall ranking of all offerors, when any ranking was developed by the agency during source selection;

(iii) A summary of the rationale for award; and

(iv) For acquisitions of commercial items, the make and model of the item to be delivered by the successful offeror.

*(End of provision)*

#### **Alternate I**

(c)(9) Offerors may submit proposals that depart from stated requirements. Such proposals shall clearly identify why the acceptance of the proposal would be advantageous to the NAFI. Any deviations from the terms and conditions of the solicitation, as well as the comparative advantage

to the NAFI, shall be clearly identified and explicitly defined. The NAFI reserves the right to amend the solicitation to allow all offerors an opportunity to submit revised proposals based on the revised requirements.

*(End of provision)*

#### **FACSIMILE PROPOSALS (NOV 2004) (BL-022)**

(a) *Definition.* "Facsimile proposal," as used in this provision, means a proposal, revision or modification of a proposal, or withdrawal of a proposal that is transmitted to and received by the NAFI via facsimile machine.

(b) Offerors may submit facsimile proposals as responses to this solicitation. Facsimile proposals are subject to the same rules as paper proposals.

(c) The telephone number of receiving facsimile equipment is: *[insert telephone number]*.

(d) The NAFI reserves the right to make award solely on the facsimile proposal. However, if requested to do so by the Contracting Officer, the apparently successful offeror promptly shall submit the complete original signed proposal. The failure to submit a hard copy by the successful offeror however cannot be the sole basis for rejecting the facsimile proposal. (See P.L. 106-229)

(e) If the offeror chooses to transmit a facsimile proposal, the NAFI will not be responsible for any failure attributable to the transmission or receipt of the facsimile proposal including, but not limited to, the following:

- (1) Receipt of garbled or incomplete proposal.
- (2) Availability or condition of the receiving facsimile equipment.
- (3) Incompatibility between the sending and receiving equipment.
- (4) Delay in transmission or receipt of proposal.
- (5) Failure of the bidder to properly identify the proposal.
- (6) Illegibility of proposal.
- (7) Security of proposal data.

*(End of provision)*

#### **TYPE OF CONTRACT (NOV 2004) (BL-023)**

The NAFI contemplates award of a \_\_\_\_\_ *[Contracting Officer insert specific type of contract]* contract resulting from this solicitation.

*(End of provision)*

#### **SINGLE OR MULTIPLE AWARDS (NOV 2004) (BL-024)**

The NAFI may elect to award a single delivery order contract or task order contract or to award multiple delivery order contracts or task order contracts for the same or similar supplies or services to two or more sources under this solicitation.

*(End of provision)*

**SERVICE OF PROTEST (NOV 2004) (BL-025)**

(a) Protests, as defined in Army Regulation AR 215-4, NAF Contracting Regulation, are to be filed directly with the Contracting Officer as follows:

(Fill in appropriate office address)

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(b) Any protest received shall be processed in accordance with AR 215-4.

*(End of provision)*

**SITE VISIT (CONSTRUCTION) (NOV 2004) (BL-026)**

(a) The clauses, Differing Site Conditions and Site Investigations and Conditions Affecting the Work, will be included in any contract awarded as a result of this solicitation. Accordingly, offerors or quoters are urged and expected to inspect the site where the work will be performed.

(b) Site visits may be arranged during normal duty hours by contacting:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

*(End of provision)*

Alternate I [If an organized site visit will be conducted, replace paragraph (b) of the basic provision with the following paragraph (b) and add the following paragraph (c).]

(b) An organized site visit has been scheduled  
for \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Insert date and time]*

(c) Participants will meet at \_\_\_\_\_  
*[Insert location]*

*(End of provision)*

**SOLICITATION PROVISIONS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE (NOV 2004) (BL-027)**

This solicitation incorporates one or more solicitation provisions by reference, with the same force

and effect as if they were given in full text. The offeror is cautioned that the listed provisions may include blocks that must be completed by the offeror and submitted with its quotation or offer. In lieu of submitting the full text of those provisions, the offeror may identify the provision by paragraph identifier and provide the appropriate information with its quotation or offer. Full text is available online at [www.armymwr.org](http://www.armymwr.org) (NAF Contracting).

*(End of provision)*

**SHIPPING POINT(S) USED IN EVALUATION OF F.O.B. ORIGIN OFFERS (NOV 2004) (BL-028)**

(a) If more than one shipping point or plant is designated by the offeror and the offeror fails to indicate the quantity per shipping point or plant before bid opening, the NAFI will evaluate the offer on the basis of delivery of the entire quantity from the point or plant where cost of transportation is most favorable to the NAFI.

(b) If the offeror, before bid opening (or the closing date specified for receipt of offers) fails to indicate any shipping point or plant, the NAFI will evaluate the offer on the basis of delivery from the plant at which the contract will be performed, as indicated in the offer. If no plant is indicated in the offer, the offer will be evaluated on the basis of delivery from the Contractor's business address indicated in the offer.

(c) If the offeror uses a shipping point other than that, which has been used by the NAFI as a basis for the evaluation of offers, any increase of transportation costs shall be borne by the Contractor and any savings shall revert to the NAFI.

*(End of provision)*